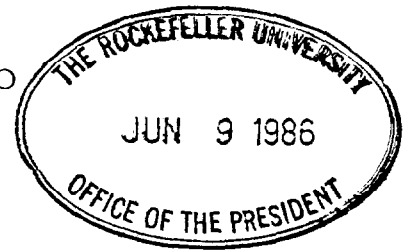


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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
1126 EAST 59TH STREET
CHICAGO · ILLINOIS 60637



June 6, 1986

Joshua Lederberg
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Josh:

Thanks very much for your letter, and the copy of your letter to the Times, as the Bethe-Bardeen piece which prompted it.


I agree very much with the import of your letter, that there must be a principle governing the public statement of members of a President's science advisory committee different from that governing the statements of a scientist not in that position. Because of this, I was a little perplexed by your approving reference to Dick Garwin's statements on SST when he was a member of PSAC. I thought a lot about that at the time, and concluded that the principle ought to be that Dick Garwin should not be silenced by his membership in PSAC on a scientific issue about which he felt strongly and was opposed to the President's position -- but that if he could not convince the President through his role in PSAC, he should have resigned from PSAC before voicing public opposition. To do otherwise brings about the emasculation of a body like PSAC, or as happened in 1972, its abolition.

Obviously, this only scratches the surface of the issues of political philosophy involved. For example, suppose the government is able to coopt, through research support through the Defense Department, a large fraction of scientists working in a particular area. It may thereby silence their potential opposition to its policies.

I think you're right. Some extended and thoughtful attention to these and surrounding issues would be an extraordinarily valuable public service. It's the kind of thing that the American Academy (though probably not the National Academy), or maybe the Social Science Research Council, would be well situated to do or even AAAS, perhaps as you suggest a

workshop under some foundation support, quite apart from any umbrella auspices like those of the American Academy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Jim' or 'James', written in a cursive style.

James S. Coleman
University Professor

JSC:dm